

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT**

Public Services - Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department - Departmental proceedings initiated against Sri V. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retired on 30.09.2017), earlier worked at Wildlife Management Kaikaluru Range, under Rule 20 of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991 read with Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980 - Articles of Charges issued - Findings of the Inquiry Officer received - Further action dropped - Orders - Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (SEC.IV) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 30

Dated: 15-04-2025

Read the following:

- 1) From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur, letter Rc.No.15875/2013/A&DC-3, dated 20.01.2019, 12.07.2020 and 08.11.2020.
- 2) Govt. Memo.No.EFS01-FRSTOFVIG/5/2019, E.F.S. & T. (Sec.IV) Department, dated 25.11.2020.
- 3) From Sri V. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), Written Representation, dated 04.02.2021.
- 4) From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur, letter Ref.No.15875/2013/A&DC-3, dated 28.11.2021.
- 5) From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri, letter Ref.No.15875/2013/A&DC-3, dated 13.02.2024.
- 6) From the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri, letter Ref.No.15875/2013/A&DC-3, dated 14.12.2024.

ORDER:

In the reference 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Guntur has informed that the disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against Sri V. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer, Wildlife Management Kaikaluru Range by the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, by issuing the following Article of Charge in Rc.No.15875/2013/Vig-1, dated 03.01.2015, under Rule 20 of Andhra Pradesh Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1991:-

ARTICLE: *"That he had exhibited gross neglect of duty and committed major irregularities in carrying out works during the year 2012-13 and caused loss to a tune of Rs.1,97,500/-".*

2. The Charged Officer acknowledged the receipt of Article of Charge on 02.02.2015 and submitted his Written Statement of Defense on 17.11.2017. Not satisfying with the explanation of the Charged Officer, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has appointed the Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle as an Inquiry Officer and the Divisional Forest Officer, Wildlife Management Eluru Division as Presenting Officer respectively, in Proc.No.15875/2013/Vig-2(i&ii), dated 09.03.2018, for conducting the regular enquiry.

3. The Inquiry Officer & Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle has completed the inquiry and submitted his findings in Rc.No.274/2013-M8, dated 28.06.2018 wherein, the Inquiry Officer has concluded that Charge framed against the Charged Officer was held **not proved**.

P.T.O.

4. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., has furnished the following disagreement factors on the findings of the Inquiry Officer:

- a) It is an Article of Charge for the Charge of misappropriation which includes misappropriation of Rs.1,45,474/- also for "Formation of Gravel parking place and EEL Road at Atapaka" as actual works done was found to be 65.70 cum only against booked quantity of 278.88 cum which is nearly four (4) times of actual quantity found on ground.
- b) The Charged Officer in his explanation claims that the road was compacted due to heavy movement of vehicles and cattle. It is unlikely that this reason can be accepted for compacting of work to the extent of ¼ of quantity booked.
- c) Inquiry Officer simply accepted the statement of Charged Officer that he has made pass order in a routine manner in a good faith. Government funds cannot be kept/spent in such a casual manner.
- d) Findings of Inquiry Officer are erroneous on above grounds.

5. The disciplinary proceedings are continued under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980, since the Charged Officer has retired from Government service on attaining the age of superannuation on 30.09.2017.

6. In the Govt. Memo. 2nd read above, while communicating the findings of the Inquiry Officer along with disagreement factors of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force thereof, the Charged Officer was directed to submit his written representation if any, on the inquiry report and the disagreement points, to the Government. The Charged Officer has submitted his written representation vide reference 3rd read above. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force in his letter 4th read above, has furnished the remarks on the written representation submitted by the Charged Officer as follows:-

- a)** The EEC Road at "Atapaka" is busy Road, on which visitors to Atapaka come to see the migratory Birds. Due to this traffic, the gravel laid on this Road might have compacted. Hence, the measurements might have also reduced due to compaction. The expenditure was booked for the measurements at the time of work execution. As the gravel laid on Road was compacted would not have been possible to found the measurements taken at the time of execution of works at the time of verification by the DFO, Vigilance.
- b)** As pointed out by the Charged Officer in his explanation that no action was initiated against the FBO and Dy. RO, who recorded and check measured the work since, the FBO worked on contract basis and the Dy. RO who check measured the work (100%) was retired from the service and subsequently expired long back.

7. In the reference 5th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has informed that, the Engineer-in-Chief (R&B), Administration, A.P., Vijayawada has sent a letter duly enclosing the inspection report of Chief Engineer (R&B), Quality Control, Vijayawada, wherein, it was stated that "in the light of the above facts, it is inferred that measurements of such temporary nature work (gravel surfacing) will not give original executed measurements after lapse of 9 months, particularly after exposure to rains/rainy season".

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8. In the reference 6th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force has informed that the amount mentioned in the Article of Charge may not be recovered from the Charged Officer, as the inquiry findings in this case was submitted as 'not proved' and in the light of the report of R&B Department.

9. After careful examination of the matter keeping in view of the facts and further report of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Government have decided to drop further action against Sri V. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked at Wildlife Management Kaikaluru Range, as the charge framed against him was held not proved. Accordingly, Government hereby order to drop further action in the disciplinary proceedings against Sri V. Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked at Wildlife Management Kaikaluru Range, under Rule 9 of A.P. Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

10. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri shall take necessary further action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G.ANANTHA RAMU

SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

Sri V.Ratna Kumar, Forest Range Officer (Retd.), earlier worked at Wildlife Management Kaikaluru Range through the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri.

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., Mangalagiri. (With original connected case records i.e., Chief Conservator of Forests, Rajahmundry Circle File No.274/2013/M8 containing CF-196 pages)

Copy to:

The Accountant General (A&E), Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.

The Secretary to A.P. Vigilance Commission, A.P. Secretariat, Velagapudi.

SF/SC (Computer No.791030).

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER